

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-05 /098 W

----- 019378

O P 030235Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5656

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,UNSC, CN

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS ON COMOROS, FEBRUARY

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1. SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY, AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, CHAIRED INFORMAL GROUP CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING COMORO COMPLAINT AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 2. COUNCIL AGREED TO SEND MESSAGE TO COMORO GOVERNMENT INDICATING COUNCIL'S INTENTION TO MEET FORMALLY ON QUESTION AND ASKING WHETHER COMOROS INTEND TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE. COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO MEET AGAIN INFORMALLY AT 3:30 PM, FEBRUARY 3. AFRICANS, JOINED BY GUYANA, EXPRESSED WISH TO MEET FORMALLY ON FEBRUARY 4.

2. AT OPENING OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, TANZANIA, ACTING IN NAME OF AFRICAN GROUP, REQUESTED FORMAL MEETING ON COMORO QUESTION FEBRUARY 4, ENVISIONING TWO TO THREE SESSIONS, WITH ANY ACTION TO BE TAKEN NECESSARY PRIOR TO SCHEDULED

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FEBRUARY 8 REFERENDUM. FRANCE (PERM REP DE GUIRINGAUD)

ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO COMORO TELEGRAM (USUN 345 NOTAL).  
HE SAID THAT A FREE VOTE NEVER CONSTITUTES AN ACT OF  
"AGGRESSION". THERE WAS NO FRENCH MILITARY THREAT TO COMOROS.  
FURTHER, IT WAS ONLY FOR CONVENIENCE SAKE THAT THE ISLANDS  
BECAME AN ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY IN 1912. THERE WAS A LONG-  
STANDING FRENCH PRESENCE IN MAYOTTE AND THERE NEVER WAS ANY  
INTENTION TO ASSIMILATE MAYOTTE. ARCHIPELAGOS OFTEN  
POSE PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO THAT EXISTING IN MAYOTTE, WHERE  
FRENCH CONTINUE TO CONSIDER SELF-DETERMINATION AS VITAL.  
BASIS OF COMOROS REQUEST FOR A MEETING DOES NOT CORRESPONDE  
TO REALITY. FRANCE IS AGREEABLE TO SENDING  
A FRENCH GOODWILL MISSION TO THE COMOROS. FRANCE ALSO INVITES  
UN MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE REFERENDUM IN MAYOTTE, FEBRUARY 8.

3. TANZANIA REJECTED THE FRENCH STATEMENT AS "UNTENABLE"  
AND "UNACCEPTABLE". SINCE AUGUST 26, 1974, FRANCE ALWAYS HAD  
AFFIRMED THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE COMOROS.  
THE LATEST POSITION OF FRANCE REPRESENTS A COMPLETELY NEW  
DEPARTURE AND POSES PROBLEMS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE SIMILAR  
SITUATIONS MAY EXIST. DE GUIRINGAUD DENIED ANY POLICY IN-  
CONSISTENCIES, SAYING DECISION WAS UP TO FRENCH PARLIAMENT  
AND PEOPLE OF MAYOTTE, NOT FRENCH EXECUTIVE, WHICH HAD  
SOUGHT VIEW OF ISLANDS AS A WHOLE: THIS IS FRENCH SYSTEM.  
FRANCE DOES NOT OBJECT TO MAYOTTE JOINING COMOROS,  
BUT WILL NOT IMPOSE ITS CHOICE ON THE PEOPLE. TANZANIA  
RETORTED THAT CONCEPT OF SELF-DETERMINATION CANNOT BE  
OVER-STRETCHED. BENIN ASKED WHY FRENCH DID NOT USE VETO  
AT TIME OF COMOROS-UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. GUYANA  
SAID THAT FRENCH CONCEPT OF ELASTICITY WAS VERY DANGEROUS.  
DE GUIRINGAUD REITERATED THAT FRENCH EXECUTIVE CANNOT FORCE  
DECISION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE REPEATED SALIM'S EARLIER  
MENTION BY BYRD AMENDMENT AS A SIMILAR INSTANCE IN USG.  
LIBYA SUPPORTED CALL FOR A FORMAL SC MEETING, AND ASKED  
FOR ONE FEBRUARY 4. RESPONSIVE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS' VIEWS,  
PRESIDENT AGREED TO SEND MESSAGE TO COMOROS ASKING WHETHER  
THEY PLAN SEND REPRESENTATIVE. SC WILL MEET INFORMALLY  
AT 3:30 PM FEBRUARY 3 AND WILL CONSIDER COMOROS REPLY (IF  
ONE IS RECEIVED).

4. SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED AND SENT MESSAGE, IN NAME OF SC  
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PRESIDENT, WHICH WE HAVE CLEARED, INFORMING COMOROS GOVERN-  
MENT OF SC INTENTION TO MEET FEBRUARY 4, AND INQUIRING WHETHER  
THEY PLAN TO BE REPRESENTED IN NEW YORK. TEXT BY SEPTTEL.  
MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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